

631442

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	
TOPIC	1. Military Review in Katowice (Stalinogrod) on 1 May 1953		
	2. Registration of the 1934 Class and Discharge of the 1928 Class		
EVALUATION	25X1	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1A
DATE OF CONTENT	1953		
DATE OBTAINED		25X1	DATE PREPARED 11 May 1954
REFERENCES			
PAGES	2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)		
REMARKS			
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SOURCE

1. The military review which was held on ul. Warszawska in Katowice (Q 51/Y 57) on 1 May 1953 and lasted 70 to 90 minutes involved units of the following branches of service: marching infantrymen, one motorcycle unit, jeeps used as radio cars, jeeps towing mortars, one motorized artillery unit, one motorized AAA unit, one motorized rocket-launcher unit, and one tank unit. The infantrymen marched 3 men abreast in 10 blocks of about 80 soldiers each. The soldiers of the front rank of each detachment carried light machine guns with round metal drums slung across their breasts. The soldiers of the other ranks carried submachine guns or rifles. They wore khaki uniforms with red service color and laced shoes with puttees. The motorcycle unit included about 50 sidecar motorcycles each of which mounted one machine gun and was occupied by three soldiers. The motorcycles were a heavy, allegedly Soviet-made model which had a two-cylinder Boxer type engine. Three motorcycles proceeded side by side. The motorcycle unit was followed by jeeps which were equipped as special purpose vehicles. Some of the jeeps mounted rod antennas. Each vehicle was occupied by three soldiers. These vehicles were followed by other jeeps towing two-wheeled mortars with pneumatic tires. The mortars were followed by about 20 trucks each of which carried about 10 to 15 soldiers with small arms. The vehicles were Polish-made Lublin trucks and resembled the Soviet-made GAS-63 truck. These vehicles were followed by about 15 four-wheeled ZIS trucks towing two-wheeled guns with pneumatic tires, relatively long barrels and shields. When being shown pictures, source identified the gun as the model M/1942 (ZIS-3) 76-mm field gun. The artillery was followed by about 10 six-wheeled trucks which towed four-wheeled AA guns without muzzle brakes. The AAA unit was followed by a unit which was equipped with 15 to 18 rocket launchers. The unit had two launcher models which source identified on pictures as the model M/8 82-mm rocket launcher and the model M/13 132-mm rocket launcher. The unit also included other trucks which were occupied by enlisted men. The last unit in the parade was a tank unit of 30 to 40 tanks which travelled in single file. Most of the tanks were T34s which source knew from Laband (Q 51/Y 38)

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where this tank model was manufactured. A few other heavy tanks seen in the review were of type JS. They mounted an AA machine gun on the turret and had a barrel with muzzle brake which far projected beyond the nose of the tank. When being shown pictures source identified this tank as the JS-2 model. Source also observed a limited number of SP guns on T-34 chassis, which had fairly short barrels and could not be identified by him. The posts at which the units participating in the review were stationed were unknown to source. 1

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3. In October 1952, an ethnic German who belonged to the 1928 class was discharged from the Polish Army after having served for three years. This soldier was stationed at Lubliniec (Q 51/T 31) or in its vicinity. 3

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1. ☐ Comment. No military units other than the 12th KBW (Internal Security) Regt are carried in Katowice. It is believed that the army units were assembled for the review from other posts. Units of the 7th Inf Div may have been involved. A rocket launcher unit is reported in Upper Silesia for the first time.

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2. ☐ Comment. Members of the 1934 class served their term of labor service from the spring to the fall of 1953 and were inducted in the fall of 1953.

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3. ☐ Comment. Several previous reports indicate that the bulk of the 1928 class served from the fall of 1949 to the fall of 1951. The 36th Inf Regt of the 2d Inf Div is carried in Lubliniec.

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